

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY OES:RCBREWSTER
APPROVED BY OES - R. C. BREWSTER, ACTING
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 107702

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 05821 ACTION SECSTATE APRIL 18.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 05821

FOR AMB. BREWSTER FROM WULF

E.O. 11652: GDS
EAGS: PLOS, XV
SUBJECT: ANTARCTIC DISCUSSIONS RE CONTINENTAL MARGIN MAP
AND FAO

1. KEITH BRENNAN (AUSTRALIA) HOSTED MEETING ATTENDED BY ALL CONSULTATIVE PARTIES, EXCEPT SOUTH AFRICA. INITIAL DISCUSSION FOCUSSED ON SECRETARIAT-SPONSORED MAP SHOWING WORLD-WIDE EFFECT OF VARIOUS FORMULAS FOR DETERMINING THE BOUNDARY OF THE CONTINENTAL MARGIN. MAP PROJECTION IS MERCATOR, GIVING AN INCREASED EMPHASIS TO POLAR REGIONS, INCLUDING ANTARCTICA. MAP REFLECTS MARGIN OFF ALL AREAS OF ANTARCTICA, INCLUDING MARIE BYRD LAND AND CONTAINS NO LINES INDICATING SECTOR CLAIMS. THIS MAP HAS BEEN SEEN BY OTHER DELEGATIONS WITH FORMAL DISTRIBUTION SET FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19.

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2. NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT TO ACCOMPANY MAP CONTAINS FOLLOWING POINTS:

- MAP OMITTS ALL INDICATIONS OF FRONTIERS ON LAND SO AS NOT TO PREJUDICE "QUESTIONS OF DELIMITATION OR TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY."

- NON-PREJUDICE FORMULA SIMILAR TO ARTICLE 4 OF ANTARCTIC TREATY.

3. DISCUSSIONS UNDER BRENNAN LED TO GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT IT IS NOT DESIRABLE FOR TREATY PARTIES TO DISCUSS ANTARCTIC ISSUE IN COMMITTEE II DEBATE. WITH RESPECT TO USE OF ARTICLE 4 FORMULA IN THE SECRETARIAT NOTE, THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE WAS AGREED IN LIEU THEREOF: "NEITHER THE MAP NOR THE STUDY HAS ANY LEGAL IMPLICATIONS, NOR SHOULD EITHER BE INTERPRETED AS PREJUDICING THE POSITION OF ANY DELEGATION OR STATE AS REGARDS THE APPLICABILITY OF THE VARIOUS FORMULAE TO SPECIFIC AREAS OR IN ANY OTHER WAY."

4. ON FAO, BRENNAN REPORTED THAT DURING DISCUSSIONS HE AND ZEGERS HAD WITH JEAN CARROZ, THEY WERE PROVIDED DRAFT DOCUMENT ON FAO SOUTHERN OCEAN FISHERY PROGRAM IN CONFIDENCE. BRENNAN SUBSEQUENTLY RAISED DETAILED OBJECTIONS TO FAO DOCUMENT AND HAS RECEIVED SOME ASSURANCES THAT IT WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY REDRAFTED BEFORE CIRCULATION. (COPY OF INITIAL FAO DRAFT AND AUSTRALIAN NOTES THEREON BEING POUCHED TO OES.) NEW DRAFT FROM FAO WILL PROBABLY BE AVAILABLE THIS WEEK OR NEXT.

5. BRENNAN FURTHER ANNOUNCED THAT UNDP HAS MADE DECISION NOT TO PROVIDE FURTHER FUNDS TO FAO FOR SOUTHERN OCEAN CONFIDENTIAL

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FISHERY. ZEGERS SUGGESTED CARROZ BE INFORMALLY INVITED TO ATTEND BUENOS AIRES SESSION.

6. BRENNAN POINTEDLY SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR ALL DELEGATIONS TO CONTACT MR. SHAH, ATTACHE DE CABINET, TO INDICATE CONTINUING CONCERN OF COUNTRIES REGARDING POSSIBLE FAO INTRUSION INTO POLITICALLY COMPLEX ANTARCTIC AREA. PLEASE ADVISE IF DEPARTMENT ACTS ON BRENNAN'S SUGGESTION. RICHARDSON UNQUOTE VANCE

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